



IFW 3731  
#

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0276

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Marc O. SCHURR et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3731  
)  
Application No.: 09/957,451 ) Examiner: D. Erez  
)  
Filed: September 21, 2001 ) Confirmation No.: 2507  
)  
For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR )  
FOLDING AND SECURING )  
TISSUE )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the U.S. Patent document listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. A copy of the listed U.S. Patent document has not been provided. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

03/22/2006 HAL111 00000091 09957451  
01 FC:1806 180.00 OP

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

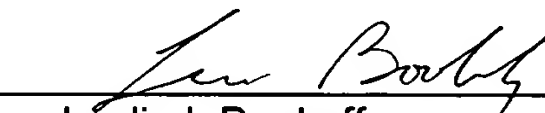
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge these fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 21, 2006

By:   
Leslie I. Bookoff  
Reg. No. 38,084

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/957,451
Filing Date	September 21, 2001
First Named Inventor	Marc O. SCHURR
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	D. Erez
Attorney Docket Number	06530.0276

**U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-6,986,784	Jan. 2006	Weiser et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

**Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.****FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.